(d) which are the places in Tamil Nadu Affected by tanneries; and

(e) what steps Government are intending to take to save human souls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Government has laid down standards for discharge of tannery effluents in order to protect the environment, including agricultural land, from degradation. These standards are enforced by the State Pollution Control Boards and the Pollution Control committee set up in the Union Territories. The issue of compensation for damage to land and adverse health effects is decided on a case by case basis by the appropriate authority in each State.

(c) and (d) As per the information provided by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 15762 hectares out of 592018 in North Arcot district have been affected due to pollution from tanneries. Some areas in other districts such as Chingleput MGR, Periyar, Trichy and Dindigul have also been affected.

(e) The Government has formulated a scheme for setting up Commen Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for clusters of small scale industries, including tanneries. The Central Government provides 25 per cent of the capital cost subejct to a limit of Rs. 50 lakhs and a corresponding grant from the State Government. Of the 880 tanneries in Tamil Nadu, 708 are covered by CETPs while 91 have individual treatment facilities. The remaining tanneries are in the process of installing treatment plants.

Posting of IPS cadre officers in Home Circle

2194. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an IPS cadre officer of the Postal Department is entitled for posting in his/her home circle for 25 years;

(b) if not, the reasons for retention of the present Post master General, North Region, Bihar, Muzaffarpur in his home circle for nearly 25 yers;

(c) whether Secretary, Department of Post has received a representation dated 7th March 1995 containing allegations of corruption etc. against the Post Master General, North Region, Muzaffarpur, Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter!

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Posting and transfers of Indian postal Service Officers are made keeping in view the operational requirements and the precribed procedures in this regard.

(b) The concerned officer has served in different spells in his home circle for about 15 years.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Appropriate enquiry has been initiated into the allegations.

suitable steps have been subsequently taken to ensure effective management and a proper working environment, by posting senior and experienced officer to look after the charge of the Head of the Bihar Postal Cicle.

Construction of Power project without Clearance under Forest Conservation act in Sikkim

2195. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as reported in a number of National dailies that the Rathongchu Hydel Power Project in West Sikkim is going to be the "Tehri of the East" as the State Government has not Fulfilled the conditions imposed by the Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has given "conditional clearnace in principle" only and the formal clearance as required under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is not given as yet; and

(c) what action Government have taken to stop the hasty and accelerated construction of this Power Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORSTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Rathongchu Hydro Electric Project in West Sikkim was cleared from environmental angle in December, 1992 subject to number of conditions. One condition was regarding constitution of monitoring committee for effective implementation of safeguards measures. The State Government has already constituted the committee. Several studies have been initiated by the State Government as required by the Central Government while according environmental clearance for the project.

(b) and (c) Diversion of 8.15 ha. of forest land for the Rathongchu Hydro Electric Project was approved in Principle under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in November, 1991 subject to transfer of non-forest lands and funds for raising compensatory afforestation in favour of Forest Department. Only on receipt of compliance report from the State Government, a formal approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be issued.

National River Conservation Policy

2196. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minsiter of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Govt. have any proposal for National River Conservation Policy and guidelines for all activities in rivers which may have an impact on riverine habitat and species;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The two published documents of the Ministry of Environment & Forest namely 'Policy Staement for Abatement of Pollution' and the 'National conservation Strategy and policy Statement on Environment and Development', *inter alia* refer to activities that are to be undertaken to conserve the rivers. Copies of these documents are placed in the Parliament Library.

Further, in pursuance of the above, the Central Government have approved the National River Conservation Plan for the pollution abatment of 18 rivers in their identified polluted stretches of 10 States.

मध्य प्रदेश की परियोजनाओं की स्वीकृति

2197. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में खानों के नये पट्टे देने और खानों के पुराने पट्टों का नवीकरण करने हेतु कौन-कौन सी परियोजनाएं उनके मंत्रालय की स्वीकृति हेतु लम्बित पड़ी हैं;

(ख) पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय की स्वीकृति के लिए सरकार के पास लम्बित अन्य विकास परियोजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) ये परियोजनाएं कब से लम्बित पड़ी है और इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) स्वीकृति देने में अत्यधिक विलम्ब से बचने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) पट्टे नवीकरण के प्रस्तावों सहित खनन प्रस्तावों के नाम विवरण में दिए गए हैं। *(नीचे देखिए)*

(ख) से (घ) उद्योग, विद्युत, सिंचाई और सड़कों के साथ-साथ अन्य विकासात्मक क्षेत्रों के तहत मध्य प्रदेश के 29 प्रस्ताव भी पर्यावरणीय और वानिकी की दृष्टि से स्वीकृति हेतु लंबित हैं। इनमें से अधिकांश